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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WAMP).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

September 26, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ZACH WAMP to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for 5 minutes.

TURKISH PENAL CODE—ELIF SHAFAK'S TRIAL

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last week Turkey put renowned novelist Elif Shafak on trial for charges that she insulted Turkishness because the character in her latest book refers to the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 as genocide. Nine months pregnant, Shafak was forced to defend herself, or, more specifically, a fictional character in her book, to prevent going to jail.

Although Shafak was acquitted, Turkey continues to use forms of intimidation to deny its citizens their right to freedom of expression. It lobbies for its so-called rightful role in the international community, yet it does not live up to democratic principles and standards.

Mr. Speaker, in 1915 a systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians occurred. Over the following 8 years, over 1.5 million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and more than half a million were forced from their homeland into exile. To this day the Republic of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the fact that this massive crime against humanity took place in the name of Turkish nationalism.

When it comes to facing the judgment of history about the Armenian genocide, Turkey has chosen to trample on the rights of its citizens to maintain its lies. The trial of Ms. Shafak is a perfect example of the depths the Turkish authorities will go in order to deny the Armenian genocide. Their refusal simply has no limits.

Article 301 of the Turkish penal code was used against Shafak. It is the same law that was used against another author, Orhan Pamuk, in 2005. It states that any person who, quote, insults the republic can be jailed for between 6 months to 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, more than 60 similar cases have been brought against writers and artists in Turkey. The law is being used to silence political voices in the country. In this instance, it disturbingly was used to charge a made-up character in a book.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased that the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, on September 4, insisted Turkey make substantial changes in many areas before the nation could ever be accepted as a mem-

ber of the European Union. On September 4, that Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament announced that Turkey had failed to align its laws with the European Union standards, and in particular, it noted Turkey's lack of recognition of the Armenian genocide, its illegal occupation of the northern third of Cyprus, religious inequality and its oppressive penal code. But Turkish authorities continue to deny their citizens the freedoms that Americans and other democracies across the world value so greatly. Without them, a true democracy does not exist.

Until Turkey can guarantee key principles of a democracy, it should not be allowed to join the European Union. In addition, Turkey needs to abide by international law in its dealings with its neighbors. Turkey continues the illegal blockade of Armenia. It refuses entrance of goods from Cyprus to its ports.

Mr. Speaker, the Turkish Prime Minister is expected to visit with President Bush sometime in early October, in the next few weeks. In light of these latest events, in light of the report of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, I would encourage the Bush administration to insist that Turkey clean up its act, both with regard to suppression of the rights of its own citizens, and illegal and aggressive acts against its neighboring countries.

HONORING CHAIRMAN HENRY J. HYDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to take this opportunity to reflect on the awe-inspiring career of Chairman HENRY J. HYDE. It is difficult to imagine this House without

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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